

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0885

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH
SUBJ: MORE CRITICISM OF DEPOSED LEADERS IN THE NORTHEAST

REF: PEKING 869

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING CLOSELY ON THE HEELS OF ITS EXPOSE OF DEPOSED HEILUNGKIANG FIRST SECRETARY LIU KUANG-TAO (REFTEL), PEOPLE'S DAILY FRONTPAGE ON APRIL 2 ANOTHER BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF PROBLEMS IN THE NORTHEAST TWO YEARS AGO. THIS ARTICLE, SIGNED BY THREE STAFF REPORTERS AND PREFACED BY AN EDITOR'S NOTE, OSTENSIBLY DEALS WITH MACHINATIONS SURROUNDING PUBLICIZATION IN 1976 OF A LIAONING FACTORY'S ALLEGED "MODEL" OPPOSITION TO TENG'S "TAKING THE THREE DIRECTIVES AS THE KEY LINK". PRIME VILLIANS OF THE PIECE ARE MAO YUAN-HSIN ANF FORMER KIRIN PROVINCIAL FIRST SECRETARY WANG HUAI-HSIANG, TRANSFERRED LAST YEAR TO A LESSER WUHAN POST AND IDENTIFIED HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NATIONAL MEDIA (ALTHOUGH EUPHEMISTICALLY, AS THE "FORMER MAIN RESPONSIBLE PERSON ON THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE") AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN
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GANG OF FOUR SCHEMING. ONCE AGAIN, THE POINT OF THE ARTICLE SEEMS LESS TO RECOUNT OLD EVENTS THAN TO EVOKE A MOOD OF "SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE NORTHEASTERN PROVINCES." END SUMMARY.

2. BACKERS OF TENG HSIAO-PING ARE LEAVING NO DOUBT THAT THEY INTEND TO PUSH VIGOROUSLY THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THEIR

OPPONENTS THAT WAS TEMPORARILY HALTED IN DEFERENCE TO THE "UNITY AND VICTORY" THEME OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND NATIONAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE. THE SPOTLIGHT HAS NOW SHIFTED TO THE NORTHEAST, WHERE LONG-TIME TENG ADVERSARY LI TEH-SHENG HAS HELD ONTO HIS SHENYANG COMMAND AND HIS POLITBURO SEAT DESPITE A CONCERTED ATTEMPT OVER 18 MONTHS TO CHIP AWAY AT HIS POWER BASE.

3. FOLLOWING CLOSELY ON THE HEELS OF ITS EXPOSE OF DEPOSED HEILUNGKIANG FIRST SECRETARY LIU KUANG-TAO (REFTEL), PEOPLE'S DAILY FRONT-PAGED ON APRIL 2 ANOTHER BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF MACHINATIONS IN THE NORTHEAST SOME TWO YEARS AGO." 'AN ACCOUNT OF MOVING AGAINST THE WIND' WAS A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL SWINDLE" OSTENSIBLY DEALS WITH EVENTS SURROUNDING PUBLICATION IN PEOPLE'S DAILY ON MARCH 27, 1976 AN ARTICLE ("AN ACCOUNT OF MOVING AGAINST THE WIND") PRAISING A LIAONING FACTORY FOR ITS COURAGEOUS AND "MODEL" OPPOSITION TO TENG HSIAO-PING'S POLICY SLOGAN "TAKE THE THREE DIRECTIVES AS THE KEY LINK."

4. ONCE AGAIN, BELABORING OLD SCHEMES OF THE GANG OF FOUR IS SCARCELY THE POINT. BY HAMMERING AWAY AT THE ACTIVE COMPLICITY ON THE PART OF NORTHEAST-BASED VILLAINS (MAO YUAN-HSIN, THE LIAONING DAILY AND THE GANG OF FOUR "INTIMATE" ON ITS STAFF, CHANG TIEH-SHENG, AND OTHERS), THE THREE REPORTERS AND THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL BOARD ARE CLEARLY ATTEMPTING TO CREATE A MOOD OF SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE NORTHEASTERN CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVINCES." FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA FORMER KIRIN PROVINCIAL FIRST SECRETARY WANG HUAI-HSIANG, TRANSFERRED LAST YEAR TO A LESSER POST IN WUHAN, IS IDENTIFIED (EUPHEMISTICALLY, AS THE "FORMER MAIN RESPONSIBLE PERSON ON THE PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE") AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN GANG OF FOUR PLOTS.

5. THUS, OF THE THREE PROVINCIAL FIRST SECRETARIES IN THE NORTHEAST DURING 1976-77, ONLY LIAONING'S TSENG SHAO-SHAN HAS THUS FAR EMERGED UNSCATHED. SINCE HIS PROVINCE IS ONCE AGAIN DEPICTED AS THE GANG'S MOST POTENT POWER BASE (OUTSIDE SHANGHAI), THE READER IS LEFT TO DRAW HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS ABOUT TSENG'S ROLE AND SYMPATHIES. AND THE READER SIMILARLY MUST DRAW HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE POSTURE OF LI TEH-SHENG, MILITARY COMMANDER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE THREE PROVINCES.
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